

Name:

# World War II

World War II began in Europe on September 1, 1939, when Germany attacked Poland. The United States was brought into the war on December 7, 1941, when the Japanese attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The United States declared war on Japan the following day, and on December 11 Germany and Italy declared war on the United States.

One side in the conflict was called the “Allies.” It included the United States, Great Britain, France, China, and the U.S.S.R. The other side—the side that lost the war—was called the “Axis.” It included Germany, Japan, and Italy. The war formally ended on September 2, 1945, with the formal surrender of Japan aboard the U.S. battleship *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.

See if you know some of the strange and bizarre facts about World War II. Read each of the following sentences and circle the letter before the correct answer.

1. The original last name of Adolf Hitler, the ruler of Germany from 1933 to 1945, was:  
A. Himmler.  
B. Schicklgruber.  
C. Hitleroski.  
D. Eichmann.
2. The very first bomb dropped by the Allies on Berlin during World War II killed only:  
A. Hitler's brother.  
B. A British prisoner of war.  
C. An elephant in the Berlin Zoo.  
D. The Kaiser's dog named "Uncle Sam."
3. Which of the following did British pilots always carry with them when they went on a mission?  
A. Playing cards  
B. Rations  
C. Weapons  
D. A picture of the queen
4. A secret that American President Franklin Delano Roosevelt tried to keep from the public was that:  
A. He had married a distant cousin.  
B. He was paralyzed from the waist down.  
C. He smoked.  
D. He listened to soap operas on radio.
5. During World War II, Japanese-American men were:  
A. Not permitted to serve in the military.  
B. Permitted to serve in the military.  
C. Permitted to serve as noncombatants.  
D. Permitted to serve only as interpreters.
6. During World War II, when the U.S. Navy wanted to calculate where enemy submarines might surface, they used:  
A. A primitive computer.  
B. A chess player.  
C. Past actions of enemy subs.  
D. The hidden Bible code.
7. A few weeks before the invasion of Normandy, top-secret code words revealing information about the invasion appeared in a:  
A. Speech by Winston Churchill.  
B. Comic book.  
C. Crossword puzzle in a London paper.  
D. Fortune cookie in Tokyo.

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8. Before the invasion of Italy, the United States asked for help from:  
A. A Mafia boss in prison. B. The Pope.  
C. Mussolini's daughter. D. Michelangelo.
9. The expression "the whole nine yards" comes from WW II. It refers to the length:  
A. Covered in one day at Iwo Jima. B. Material used to make one uniform.  
C. Of ammunition belts. D. Of a P.T. boat.
10. The weapons produced by the 603rd Engineers were unique because they:  
A. Were made of rubber. B. Had the highest success rate.  
C. Used experimental weapons. D. Were handmade.
11. The super Japanese aircraft carrier *Shinano* was called the unperishable castle of the sea. It became famous when it:  
A. Sank the *Indianapolis*. B. Led the attack at Pearl Harbor.  
C. Was sunk on its first voyage. D. Was converted into a cruise ship.
12. The surprise attack on Pearl Harbor was predicted by:  
A. Nostradamus. B. A book in 1925.  
C. Benjamin Franklin in a dream. D. Three peasant children in Budapest.
13. Hitler did not do well in academic classes in school, so he decided to go to Vienna in order to become:  
A. A soldier. B. A pastry cook.  
C. An artist. D. A ballet dancer.
14. At one time during the War, the army and navy considered putting bombs on:  
A. Bats. B. Porpoises.  
C. Kites. D. Surfboards.
15. Paul W. Tibbetts piloted the B-29 bomber that dropped the atomic bomb over Hiroshima, Japan, on August 6, 1945. The bomber was named *Enola Gay* after:  
A. The first child to die at Pearl Harbor. B. A sled he had as a child.  
C. His girlfriend. D. His mother.
16. The first nuclear weapon used in warfare was called \_\_\_\_\_. It exploded approximately 1,800 feet over Hiroshima, Japan, on the morning of August 6, 1945. The second nuclear weapon used in warfare was called \_\_\_\_\_. It was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, on August 9, 1945.  
A. Abbott, Costello B. Little Boy, Fat Man  
C. Adam, Eve D. Rising Sun, Setting Sun

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17. In the 1940s, there was a beautiful actress named Hedy Lamarr. Among other roles, she played Delilah in the hit movie, *Samson and Delilah*. During World War II, she and a composer whose name was George Antheil contributed to the war effort by:
- A. Inventing a torpedo guidance system.
  - B. Creating a song about giving blood.
  - C. Performing shows on the front lines.
  - D. Volunteering as nurses.
18. Perhaps the most successful secret code used by American troops was:
- A. Pig Latin.
  - B. Navajo Indian language.
  - C. Egyptian Hieroglyphics.
  - D. A code developed during the Civil War.
19. During World War II the original copies of the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence were:
- A. Laminated.
  - B. Stored in Fort Knox, Kentucky.
  - C. Stored in a Swiss Bank.
  - D. Stored at the North Pole.
20. In 1957, the United States dropped a hydrogen bomb in:
- A. Russia.
  - B. Italy.
  - C. New Mexico.
  - D. Atlantis.
21. It is a little known fact that during World War II, Japan:
- A. Bombed the United States.
  - B. Refused to fight on Saturdays.
  - C. Mainly used American-made weapons.
  - D. Prohibited all talk about the war.
22. Desmond Doss was a conscientious objector. This meant that he was against war and refused to fight in WW II. He was eventually:
- A. Executed.
  - B. Given the Medal of Honor.
  - C. Sentenced to prison.
  - D. Deported.
23. Although Franklin Roosevelt had been president for several years, at the time his mother died in 1941, he had never been permitted to:
- A. Smoke in her presence.
  - B. Call her "Mommy."
  - C. Attend family reunions.
  - D. Manage the family money.
24. When President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was a boy, President Cleveland told him, "Franklin:
- A. You're not related to Teddy, are you?"
  - B. Drop the middle name. It's strange."
  - C. I hope you never become president."
  - D. You should run for office someday."
25. When Douglas MacArthur, the famous general in World War II, attended West Point:
- A. He flunked out.
  - B. His mother went with him.
  - C. He was expelled for practical jokes.
  - D. He was an assistant chaplain.